

Community resources

[Follow us on Twitter](#) [Check our Reddit](#) [Twitter this](#) [Digg this page](#) [Contact us on IRC](#)

courage is contagious

Viewing cable 09OSLO527, USNATO AMBASSADOR DAALDER'S MEETING WITH NORWEGIAN

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09OSLO527**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09OSLO527	2009-08-26 13:45	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Oslo

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsnight>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/newsnight/9483790.stm>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-13378567>

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk>

<http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/en/news-and-blogs/campaign-blog/new-wikileaks-revelations-shed-light-on-arcti/blog/34736>

<http://www.thenation.com/blog/160631/wikileaks-news-and-views-blog-thursday-day-166>

<http://blogs.ft.com/energy-source/2011/05/12/the-battle-over-greenlands-oil/>

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5ihhnQuXHwVOFswGcLlhFwiCs9gRQ?docId=6832936>

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jchSEXNkbbPv1AB4mJOcmsY2WddA?docId=CNG.4232f6ae19eb54c58c9d35b7f0b4995b.861>

VZCZCXRO1572

OO RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHNP RUEHROV RUEHSL RUEHSR

DE RUEHNY #0527/01 2381345

ZNY CCCCC ZZH

O 261345Z AUG 09

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO RUEHNO/USNATO BRUSSELS BE IMMEDIATE

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7737

INFO RUEHXP/ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 0208
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 4064
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK IMMEDIATE
RUEPGAA/US SURVEY DIV SHAPE BE IMMEDIATE
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OSLO 000527

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/25/2019

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PARM](#) [RU](#) [NO](#)

SUBJECT: USNATO AMBASSADOR DAALDER'S MEETING WITH NORWEGIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER STOERE

Classified By: CDA James Heg for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

11. (C) SUMMARY: In discussions August 17 with visiting USNATO Ambassador Ivo Daalder, Norway's Minister of Foreign Affairs Jonas Gahr Stoere and MFA DG for North America and Security Policy Steffen Kongstad said the GON would welcome a new U.S. Missile Defense strategy that emphasized a multilateral approach. They also noted the importance of keeping the door open for discussions with Russia, while developing a more unified NATO consensus through working-level dialogue. On Norway's Core Initiative idea regarding potential NATO exercises in Norway, Stoere cautiously espoused a "High North, low tension" viewpoint, based on what Norway sees as a comprehensive approach to environmental, economic, and security challenges presented by the melting Arctic ice. The Foreign Minister endorsed future NATO exercises in the High North if they fell under the rubric a new NATO Strategic Concept as detailed in the September 2008 Norwegian Non-paper presented at NATO. (USNATO Ambassador Daalder's discussions with the Deputy Defense Minister are being reported septel.) End Summary.

Missile Defense - NATO context welcome

12. (C) USNATO Ambassador Ivo Daalder, accompanied by Charge d'affaires Heg and pol-mil officer, met with FM Stoere, MFA Director General Kongstad, and Norway's NATO Ambassador Kim Traavik over dinner August 17 after a full day of meetings in Oslo that included Ambassador Daalder's speech at the Norwegian foreign policy institute NUPI on "Resetting NATO-Russia Relations." FM Stoere welcomed a new, multilateral discussion on Missile Defense (MD), saying that MD can provide an increase in protection for geographical areas only if it actually enhances security and does not provoke an arms race. (Norway opposed the previous U.S. administration's MD policy in the past.) He supported the idea of a NATO-wide approach to MD policy, since in the 2005 - 2008 period it clearly became a "bilateral and not a NATO-based issue." He also added that it would be important to analyze Russia's reaction to the MD discussions, as Moscow's reaction would likely signal behavior of NATO allies in future discussions on MD within the Alliance. He estimated that there is a careful balancing act that needs to be achieved between informing Russia while ensuring it does not determine the evolution of NATO MD policy. Stoere believed it would likely take beyond December 2009 to reach a consensus on MD, as the exact threat remains unclear. However, he agreed with USNATO Amb. Daalder that action needs to be taken soon to ensure sufficient time for systems to become operative before Iran could pose a real threat to NATO countries.

Uneasy NATO-Russia Relations

13. (C) Stoere referred to Russia's confrontational approach at the NATO-Russia Council as "ritualistic," with their negative reactions to NATO issues embedded in their "blood and veins." The NATO decision to close down the NATO-Russia dialogue last August was, nevertheless, a "bad decision" in Norway's view, and one which provided a hook for other

countries that would like to ensure that future discussions on Russia issues do not move forward. Stoere said that, despite Russia's inherent dislike of NATO, it is important to keep this communication channel open, in particular if NATO countries can develop a consensus-based approach on dealing with Russia. Stoere recommended increasing working-level contacts on Russia issues within NATO as a path to achieving additional agreement on how to move forward. Stoere noted that Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov acts "almost normal" in non-NATO fora, such as the Arctic Council and Barents Council; he suggested that such fora could also provide an opening for coping with Russia on several matters Norway sees as areas for NATO concern in the Arctic High North. He noted that Norway, although sometimes viewed as too soft in its approach to Russia, is very firm on jurisdiction issues and the future of Svalbard.

Strategic Concept: Way Forward on NATO Reform

OSLO 00000527 002 OF 002

14. (C) Stoere expressed disappointment about the Composition of the new Experts Group announced by NATO SYG Anders Fogh Rasmussen. He thought Rasmussen would give higher consideration to the NATO Nordic allies. He agreed that there appears to be general uncertainty on how Strategic Concept discussions will evolve, juggled between NATO Director for Policy Planning Jamie Shea, the Experts Group, and the NAC. The minister offered that Norway would seek to host a Strategic Concept dialogue in the coming months, in order to ensure Norwegian input into the discussion and to supplement the Core Areas Initiative non-paper Norway submitted to NATO in September 2008. Stoere emphasized that as part of the Strategic Concept discussions, it is critically important to ensure NATO's enlargement strategy is re-defined to address the "unfinished business in the Balkans." He expressed concern over the NATO SYG's apparent lack of interest in addressing Balkan issues.

15. (C) FM Stoere concluded by emphasizing the importance of developing a relevant, easy-to-read Strategic Concept that would be within the public's grasp, in order to ensure continued public support for NATO. He said it must reflect contemporary challenges and demonstrate NATO is not only about Russia, Iran, and terrorism. He cited as an example the two and a half page document on the financial crisis prepared by the London School of Economics for Queen Elizabeth as an excellent example of how clear and concise the new Strategic Concept needs to be.

NATO Exercises: "High North, Low Tension"

16. (C) On potential NATO re-flagging of bilateral and multilateral exercises in Norway, Stoere cautiously espoused a "High North, low tension" viewpoint, based on what Norway sees as a comprehensive approach to environmental, economic, and security challenges presented by the melting Arctic ice. He supported the idea of future, small-scale NATO exercises in the High North, if they fell under the rubric of a new NATO Strategic Concept as detailed in the September 2008 Norwegian Non-paper presented at NATO. Stoere particularly emphasized the point that NATO should avoid "unnecessarily provoking" the Russians.

17. (C) Stoere opined that Norway has a unique status as both a NATO founding member country, on the one hand, and Russia's neighbor, on the other, which provides Norway with insights on new allies' perspectives. Norway feels a special kinship with the Baltic states, he said, and shares their viewpoints about containing Russia's potential threat to their sovereignty. Stoere described how, during his March 2009 visit to Moscow, he thanked FM Lavrov for making it so much easier for him to justify the Joint Strike Fighter purchase to the Norwegian public, given Russia's regular military flights up and down Norway's coast. In summing up Norway's

approach to Russia, Stoere offered that Norway remains vigilant regarding the threat Russia poses, but added that he is in favor of further analysis of the several challenges with which Norway must grapple with due to the melting of Arctic ice before endorsing large NATO military exercises in the High North.

18. (C) Comment: In separate discussions with Amb. Daalder earlier the same day (reported septel), Deputy Defense Minister Barth-Eide and MOD DG for Security Policy Svein Efjestad shared similar concerns about potentially provoking Russia, but had no hesitation in recommending NATO re-flagging of existing training and exercises in the High North in the near term. They were confident such exercises could be presented as part of the normal, routine training for NATO's defense of Article 5 guarantees throughout Europe.
HEG